

REMARKS

Claims 1-71 were examined. Claims 1-71 have been canceled and are being pursued in a subsequently filed continuation-in-part application. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue claims of similar scope in other continuation or continuation-in-part applications.

Claims 72-142 are added herein. Support for these new claims are found throughout the originally filed specification, as noted below. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Examination and reconsideration of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification for a variety of informalities. Each of the alleged informalities are discussed as follows:

(1) The Examiner objected to Applicants listing of "related applications" on page 1, lines 4-14. Applicants are not claiming benefit to such applications, but are merely referencing such applications as being related to the subject matter disclosed in the present application.

(2) The Examiner objected to the three blank spaces for serial numbers. Applicants provided the serial numbers for the blank spaces in the Preliminary Amendment that was filed on June 14, 2002.

(3) In regards to the updating of the current status of the related cases on page 1 of the application, Applicants note that none of the patents need updating (e.g., to date none of the applications have issued or been abandoned).

(4) In regards to the specification on page 19, lines 14-15, Applicants have updated the paragraph to specify the patent numbers for the applications which have issued.

(5) The Examiner objected to the specification because of blanks on page 52, lines 5-6 and page 54, line 12. Applicants have reviewed the specification and did not notice any blanks. Applicants respectfully request clarification for such objections.

(6) In regards to the drawings, Applicants agree with the Examiner that the present application should contain only 14 pages of drawings with 16 figures. The extra FIG. 1 is extraneous. Applicants note however, that the published application (Pub. No. US 2003/0120331 A1) did not include FIG. 1. For ease of reference, Applicants submit herewith an entire set of formal figures that are to be included with any patent that issues.

(7) Per the request of the Examiner, Applicants have amended FIG. 5 to include a label "Detail A".

No new matter has been added through any of the above amendments.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-71 are provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-87 of copending application no. 10/327,711 (our file: 21630-001230US).

To expedite prosecution of the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled claims 1-71. The subject matter of claims 1-71 are being pursued in the copending application no. 10/327,711.

For the above reasons, the double patenting rejection of claims 1-71 is moot.

Added Claims

To more fully claim the novel aspects of the present invention, Applicants have added new claims 72-142 that are directed to radially expandable stents. Applicants respectfully request examination of new claims 72-142. Support for the added claims can be found in FIGS. 1A, 1B, 4, 5, 5A, 6, and 9-13 and the related sections in the specification (e.g., page 23, line 8 to page 29, line 22, page 32, line 14 to page 37, line 5, and page 43, line 16 to page 50, line 8. No new matter has been added.

Related Patent Applications

Per the request of the Examiner, provided herewith is a list of all co-pending applications that set forth similar subject matter to the present claims. A copy of the pending claims in each of the referenced applications are attached herewith.

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Attorney Docket No.</u>
10/091,641	03/05/2002	"Advanced Endovascular Graft"	021630-001220US
10/132,754	04/24/2002	"Endovascular Graft"	021630-000120US
10/168,053	06/14/2002	"Inflatable Intraluminal Graft"	021630-001300US
10/289,136	11/05/2002	"Endovascular Graft"	021630-000130US
10/289,137	11/05/2002	"Inflatable Intraluminal Graft"	021630-001310US
10/327,711	12/20/2002	"Advanced Endovascular Graft"	021630-001230US
10/384,103	03/06/2003	"Kink Resistant Endovascular Graft"	021630-001100US

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 04/01/04

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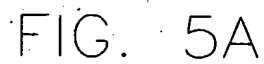
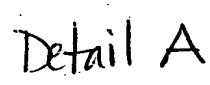


FIG. 5